

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES, 2006 Human rights Forum

Stephen F. Rohde is a constitutional lawyer, lecturer and writer. He is past President of the ACLU of Southern California, and he has written numerous articles on civil liberties, separation of church and state, the death penalty and constitutional history. His latest book, "Freedom of Assembly," traces the history of protest from the Magna Carta to the 2004 Republican National Convention. Mr Rohde received the 2004 First Amendment Award from the ACLU Foundation of Southern California. He is senior partner with the law firm of Rohde & Victoroff in Century City, specializing in civil litigation and appeals, communications, media, intellectual property and constitutional law.

Dorothy Green was the founding president of Heal the Bay, an organization devoted to improving the water quality and health of marine life along Los Angeles County's beaches. She also co-founded the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, a coalition of government agencies, community groups, businesses and academics working to reinstate the beneficial uses of area rivers and watershed, of which she serves as president and volunteer executive director. Green is a board member of POWER (Public Officials for Water and Environmental Reform), a group of current and former water officials striving for proactive, progressive solutions to the statewide water problems.

Bill Lakin is a Board member of the Southern California Unit of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), and a member of the UUSC Ambassadors Council. He is a member of the State Steering Committee of Americans United for Separation of Church and State; the Sierra Club; Marine Mammal Center, Cambria; and the Emergency Response Team. He served as President of the Riverside County Advisory Board (1980). Lakin is also the founder and owner of the Lakin Company, a sales and marketing consulting firm for the electronics industry (1984-2004). He lives in Cambria with Patricia Harris-Lakin, and together they have five sons and six grandchildren.

Chris Hill is a civil engineer, and has been in the water industry over 25 years. He has BS and MS degrees in Civil Engineering from UC Berkeley in 1977 and 1978 respectively. His experience has been in small and large private consulting firms and for one large public agency, mostly in the field of dam and reservoir engineering.

Richard Gillock is a past board member of the Orange County Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, manages the Orange County ACLU speakers bureau, and is a Board member of the Orange County Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, another group that champions our First Amendment rights. Rich served four years in the United States Marine Corp during the Vietnam War, and afterwards, graduated from MIT with a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. In his day job he is a flight control systems engineer in the aerospace industry.

John Earl was a researcher and organizer for the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union (now Unite Here). He was subsequently involved in the democratic reform movement in that union and helped create Unite Here Local 50 at Disneyland. He is on the steering committee of the Labor Action Coalition which promotes grassroots organizing and labor union reform. He also started www.ocorganizer.com to promote a broad-based, bottom-up form of labor organizing. He has been involved with the Colectivo Tonantzin, helping to organize events in Costa Mesa. He has been doing freelance writing on labor issues since 2003 and has reported extensively on Costa Mesa immigration issues and the Minutemen.

Coyotl Tezcalipoca is a student at Orange Coast College majoring in Political Science. He has worked on several campaigns with a variety of community organizers. Currently he is involved with the struggle for immigrants' rights in Costa Mesa and the anti-war movement.

Lucia Munoz, Founder of MIA (Mujeres Iniciando en las Americas), was born in Guatemala and raised both in Guatemala and Southern California. She has an academic background in the Social Sciences. Her professional experience ranges from entrepreneurship to office administration to business finance. Lucia has been highly successful working with Latina teens at Girls Incorporated, helping them develop practical strategies to negotiate the myriad challenges they face, with a special emphasis on the importance of taking pride in their cultural heritage. Her work included pregnancy, drug, and alcohol education and crisis intervention programs.

Kari Mans will be obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in History and American Studies this spring, and a certificate in American Indian Studies, at California State University, Long Beach. She has studied the Indigenous people of Latin American and the United States. In the fall she will attend UCLA in the American Indian Studies Program and will apply to law school. She has an interest in American Indian Federal Law. Her volunteer activities include working with the Acjachemen Nation in San Juan Capistrano and with M.I.A. Kari has just recently returned from Guatemala where she helped fight femicide and researched the circumstances of women's deaths.

Imelda Buncab is the national program director for the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST) in Los Angeles. Her duties include program management, training and implementation of the Freedom Network Institute on Human Trafficking, a national training project presented by CAST and six nation-wide Freedom Network partners. In addition, she is also the Western Region Coordinator for the Institute, and provides training, technical assistance, mentoring and capacity building to other anti-trafficking projects locally, statewide and nationally. Prior to joining CAST, Ms. Buncab was the Project Coordinator for Project Safe Haven, an anti-trafficking program.

Hector Aristizabal is a human rights activist who was forced to leave his native Medellin, Columbia, in 1989 due to death threats. Since coming to the U.S., he has worked with at risk youth, using theater arts as therapy and as a means of political liberation. He is the co-founder and clinical director of CITYSCAPE, an art therapy program in Los Angeles. He is also the co-founder of the Columbia Children Peace Fund and a member of the Columbia Peace Project.